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Congo News Letter

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Archives

CONGO NEWS LETTER

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Cover picture for CONGO NEWS LETTER
(*Picture by Arley Brown*)
Front row, sitting on ground, left to right:
Miriam Brown, Steven Sharp, Cindy Weaver, Pamela Weaver, Joan Riddle, Karen Jump, Carol Riddle, Doug Uhlinger, Suzanne Weaver.
Second row, standing, 1. to r.:
Rusty Weaver, John Scott, Nancy Uhlinger, Evelyn Brown, Marillee Pearson, Charles Metzger, Paul Metzger.
(*Missing from picture:* John Pearson and Suzan Pearson).

Editor
ETHEL D. BROWN

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"AND I GIVE UNTO THEM...."

THERE was no altar or anthem. Instead of candelabra a single kerosene lantern burned on the bare table, its soft light not quite reaching the corners of the mud brick walls or beyond the first few rows of dark skinned faces. The minister wore khaki instead of a robe. Even the Bible he used was in a different language, but the words he read spoke to the hearts of those who heard them as they have ever since Jesus first said "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

Our people know well what it is to walk literally in darkness. Many times a day's journey begins before the sun is up or else the setting sun catches the traveller still on his way. A lantern then is a necessity, for the roads and paths are rough, and there are many dangers.

And many of them have walked in spiritual darkness. There is no other word that so well describes the areas of Africa where the gospel of Jesus Christ has not been preached. Heathenism is not amusing, nor picturesque, nor "interesting." It is darkness incarnate, just as Jesus is life and light incarnate.

At Banza Manteke, when the station was being moved from the old hilltop to the new site, one of the missionaries at the half-finished post was seriously ill and needed injections of quinine. Because the hospital was still functioning at the old site, the Christian native nurse at the new dispensary walked 15 miles that night to get the drug, and then back again. He walked in literal darkness, but he had with him the light of life. His was the promise of all Christian travellers, who follow the purpose and guidance of God, "The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even for evermore."

The light of the world — and again, Jesus said: "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture."

Doors—panelled doors, revolving doors, dutch doors, french doors, we take them for granted. The doors, of most African houses are different, of bamboo poles or long thatch grass, some-

times just a cotton curtain fills the doorway, or a mat of papyrus stalks is put into place at night. These doors usually stand ajar in the daytime, offering free access to chickens, flies, sheep and goats, each with its quota of dirt and germs.

The houses of our workmen and teachers on the mission stations are built whenever possible of sturdy, longlasting brick, and each has its doors. Chickens and other animals can be excluded, while the health giving sunshine and fresh air still enter through the windows. These doors can be locked when the occupants of the house are away visiting, and best of all, because they are built to fit the doorframe, they can be tightly closed during the often violent tropical storms, shutting out winds and rains.

Doors in themselves don't mean much to our gospel message, unless someone should chose to preach on this text. But Christ the door also said "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Spiritually first—and to salvation Christ is the only door—but after that intellectually and materially and socially and physically. The really abundant life includes all this, and we must help our people to find it. Thus doors and decent housing are part of our overall program, and indirectly part of evangelism.

Man must have shelter, but his primary need is food and water. Jesus also said, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

In the Banza Manteke secondary school, it is not hard to pick out the students who have come from the Moanza and Boko stations, for today's teenagers were born during years of famine. Today their bodies are smaller and frailer than those of their classmates from the other areas, and though they have enough to eat now, they can never "catch up."

In all of our schools we have classes in agriculture and acres of school gardens where classroom theory can be put into practice. A French proverb says, "A hungry stomach has no ears," and we want our children and people to hear and heed as we teach the words of life. Then they can carry back to their villages, with the good news that God loved the world and gave His son, better ways to keep their gardens and new foods to plant. Our people are not

"rice Christians" interested only in food, but these modern methods are an object lesson for this same "life more abundantly."

Some years the rains are poor, and so are the harvests. It is hard then for missionaries to sit at tables with simple but sufficient food, when they know that within walking distance of the mission stations there are villages where men and women and small children are hungry. Just to pray then that they might know Him Who is the bread of life is not enough. When we preach, we must plant—both manioc to eat and the seed which is the Word of God. Often we feel as if we had but five loaves and two fishes, so little among so many, both spiritually and physically, but we rejoice that Christ, the bread of life then, has not changed today.

And Christ is yet more. He also said, "I am the vine: ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit."

We have many vines in Congo and use them in many ways. There are bridges across rushing streams built only of vines and native houses where vines are used instead of nails. We know that for a vine to flourish and bear fruit it must be rooted in good soil. The soil for our older Christians was the tribe with its restrictions and taboos. Today, however, our youth, many of whom are second or third generation Christians, are uprooted from this source of guidance and help. The increasing urbanization of Congo is taking more and more young people away from their villages and families. It is our responsibility to see that they do not cut themselves off from the guidance of the church also when they make this move.

On graduation day, the words "with much fruit" were written on the diplomas of the secondary school students who had done their work with distinction to indicate that they graduated "with honor." We rejoiced with each one who received this mark; there were not many of them. Our success in our educational work, though, is not judged by the number who graduated with much fruit, but by those who by daily abiding in the Vine, rooted and grounded in Him, bring forth much fruit in their Christian lives. The idea of a Christian layman—one who is not in the service of the mission, whether as pastor or teacher or workman or nurse, but who still takes an active part in the work of the church—is new

to many of our people, but it is one that we need to emphasize.

All the way through, in the great affirmations of Christ, it is *life* that is emphasized. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life... This is life eternal that they might know thee.... Bread of life; the way, the truth, and the life; the light of life; the resurrection and the life."

One day, after a long and difficult labor and delivery, I overheard a new mother tell some of her friends, "My baby was born dead, but he has been brought back to life." It impressed me, for she used the same words that we triumphantly sing Easter morning in the hymn "He arose, Hallelujah, Christ arose !"

Even today, after years of medical work on our older stations, and especially in the upper Congo area where the work is newer, people still come to our hospitals with their sick too late. But where penicillin may fail us, we use prayer and the promise, "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." Many times these same people return to their villages rejoicing that a loved one, given up as dead, is both alive and has life — the life in Christ of which they learned while staying in our hospitals.

It is our prayer that all of our mission work, whether medical, or educational, or evangelistic, or agricultural, or whatever, will be but the means to this end, that the Congolese may have this truly abundant life.

VIRGINIA NICKERSON

MISSIONARY SMALL FRY

By Rose Uhlinger

A DOZEN years ago at an A.B.F.M.S. mission conference it would have been impossible to find a bevy of eager young photographic models such as grace the current C.N.L. cover. Perhaps there would have been one or two toddlers or babies, born during that mission term and whom it had been impossible to send back to America because of war-time conditions, but that would have been all. For from the beginning of the Congo mission in 1877 until about 1946 it was the general opinion that, because of the terrible diseases and the tropical climate, a white child could not survive in the Congo or at least could not stay in good health. The sooner he was sent "home" after birth, the better.

Those mothers and fathers who had to say goodbye to a sleeping babe, or tiny toddler or half-grown son or daughter knowing they would not see them again for years to come truly knew what it meant to sacrifice for the cause of Christ. Theirs will always be the picture of true missionary devotion.

Some of the children went to live with relatives in the States but the majority lived at the Fannie Doane Home in Granville, Ohio along with children of missionaries from other Baptist fields. Today we have two second-generation Congo missionaries, Roland Metzger and Arley Brown, who having spent most of their youth in America away from their parents, now are devoting their adult life to mission work in the Congo. Arley Brown is lucky enough to have his parents still serving on the field and is able to see them more often than he did as a child!

There were, of course, a few hardy pioneers who paved the way for our cover picture of today. Among some of the parents the conviction began to develop that if they could survive in the Congo, perhaps their children could too; and that being separated from his parents might be worse for a child than the risk of disease while being with them.

The first to take the "fatal" step were the Martin Engwalls who the whole time of service in Congo—except for a three year period during the war when Mr. Engwall was on the field alone — had

their children right with them. Ruth Engwall relates how she used to scrub the floors with strong antiseptic when the girls were small so determined was she that they would survive, and *in* Congo. They had their bouts with malaria, black-water fever and tropical ulcers but today the four girls are healthy, married and parents in their own right.

About this same period the H. D. Browns and the Dr. Glen Tuttles braved public opinion and the feeling of the Board and brought out their year-old sons, keeping them here until they were of school age after which John went to Granville and was cared for in the Children's Home there and David Tuttle stayed with his grandparents. In 1949 John Brown was to be the last child cared for in the Home, being there alone for six months until he graduated from high school. . . . . More and more others began to keep their offspring in Congo until of school age or bring them out for a few years before leaving them in the States for their education. . . . . Smiths, Osterholms, Halls, Robbins, others . . . . . .

Then following the war, the rapid advance in medicines—the knowledge of how to prevent or cure most of the disease hazards of a tropical country—opened the door for ALL the children. Since 1946 no family has left a child at home unless he or she was in College or almost ready to enter.

But even that does not mean that families can always be united. There is still the question of schooling. Those lucky enough to be stationed at Leopoldville may send their children to the Belgian state school where they will soon be spouting French as their parents could only hope to. Rusty Weaver, oldest child of our mission treasurer, was No. 1 in his second grade class there last year. . . . . But for most, it means that the mothers will be the teachers until the child reaches fourth grade. Then he will have a 500 mile trip by train, airplane and car, to arrive at the Presbyterian boarding school at Lubondai. At Christmas time he will make the long trip home again for a sejour of about five weeks. Then back and, in June, home again for a 9 weeks' "summer vacation."

Lubondai will take their pupils on up through high school and is well loved by those attending it, but it is getting crowded. So this year's conference saw the "Missionary Kids committee" hard at work on plans for an A.B.F.M.S. primary school. It is to be

opened in 1959—possibly in the Kimpese area. Plans have been drawn by Chester Scott for a simple but home-like dormitory; a school and a teacher's residence. We have recommended to the Board that they search for an initial staff of a *couple*—each a qualified teacher—to carry the class-work, and a mature *woman* as matron for the dormitory. Those interested please contact the board!

As one glance at the cover picture will tell you, our youngsters are normal children—some don't like to pose for pictures; some do. Some have other white playmates; some little dark-skinned ones. Most talk at least two languages. Our hopes for them are that as they grow up here, they too may catch the vision of Christian service—perhaps in this very land.

BANZA MANTEKE

VIRGINIA NICKERSON

Scholars and statistics,
Bookkeeping and baptisms,
Hospital and hope,
Lepers and love,
Construction and consecration,
Sorrows and satisfactions

have all played their part in the work at Banza Manteke during the past year.

The words of Samuel "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" can most fittingly be applied to each part of the work. In the educational department we have had almost one thousand students in our schools, more than in any previous year. We have rejoiced in the completion of the secondary school building, which has meant for our boys' schools at least, that each class has its own classroom. One of the happiest experiences of the year was Decision Sunday, which followed our Religious Emphasis Week, when 160 of our young people came forward in answer to the invitation.

Besides the schools on the mission station, there are thirty-three regional schools with 67 *moniteurs* throughout the field, and

in them all, our Christian teachers have worked diligently to teach the "all things whatsoever I have commanded you" along with the mathematics and French.

Though the gospel has been preached longer in our area than in any other in Congo, there is still a fierce struggle going on in our field, a struggle for men's souls, between the powers of darkness and the power of the Gospel of Christ. Disruptive influences are not lacking. It is a sad fact that in almost all our villages the young people have gone to the cities, leaving only the old folks and oftentimes the married women. In the past few months, Jehovah's Witnesses have come into some of our villages, and in the Mukimbungu area, there is a group of Adventists who have come to start their church.

However in spite of this, there have been nine hundred baptims during the year, and church membership stood at 7242 at the close of 1954. It is a tribute to the stamina of our Christians and especially to the solid work done by our pioneer missionaries that none of these movements is making much headway. Our people may be drawn away for a time, but they soon realize that the faith of their fathers and the faith in which they have grown up is much more satisfying than any of these new doctrines.

Our greatest sorrow during the year was the death of Esther Ehnbom, who had been the nurse here at Banza Manteke for 26 years. Our people were all anticipating her return in October. The service that she gave, especially to the women and children of Congo, to lepers, is mirrored in the increased number of babies registered in the four weekly *kilos* (over 500 of them) and the 256 babies born at the maternity, the most in any year since the building was completed, and among whom many little girls were given her name.

In August the hospital received a Ford ½ ton pick-up truck for use as an ambulance from the *Fonds du Bien-Etre Indigène*. Since then we have averaged some 600 kilometers a month, traveling to baby clinics and to the five outlying dispensaries. An average of 48 patients were examined and treated daily at the dispensary; another 50 were hospitalized each day.

The work among the lepers was particularly encouraging this year. Some 56 were sent home as "clean cases" and another 60

with a mild form of the disease were sent to their villages where they continue treatment at the nearest rural dispensary. A new treatment for ulcers has been most successful, and several men and women who have had ulcers of many years standing have been able to return to their villages, clean and cured, and rejoicing in the Lord, who, as they say "gave us the wisdom to know how to help them."

The most important part of all our work, but one which cannot be tabulated statistically, is the faithfulness and Christian love of our workers—teachers, pastors, nurses, laborers. We as missionaries realize that whatever we are able to accomplish is possible because they work with us, and the Lord hath helped us all.

BOKO STATION REPORT

THE many duties of the evangelist, the lack of qualified African leadership, the youthfulness of the church, the large areas which are unevangelized, the recent Crusade of the Roman Catholic Church in which "Holy Water" has been exchanged for fetishes, plus various evil influences which accompany the influx of the western world upon Africa; all these have failed to prevent the progress of the little Boko Church.

Attendance at church services has greatly increased. Evangelistic teams are carrying the Gospel message to villages every weekend. Giving has more than doubled. We are having twice as many baptisms. School enrollment is twice as large as last year. The Laubach Primer in Kiyaka is ready for printing and the Gospel of Mark has been translated into the Kiyaka language.

The Boko medical work is not very big but it is growing. It has been very difficult to care for patients in the tiny grass huts, especially the very ill, but it has been done without too many fatalities. Early in March we had a one-day visit from Dr. Walker. Without regular visits from a doctor it has meant transporting many serious cases to the Foreami doctor at Kenge or the one at Popokabaka. This has been a matter of considerable expense, which we hope will be met somehow.

We have four baby clinics, the one started by Mrs. Robbins soon after Boko was opened, and three organized this year. Two of these were opened in January and one at the beginning of July. This last one is located in a very backward area and so far we have only forty-two names on the roll, but the mothers are very eager to have us come. Not only babies have been cared for but any who have needed help, and often as many as ninety extras have been helped after the baby clinic has been finished.

We look forward to the day when the people of Boko may also have regular visits from one of our Mission doctors, and when we shall have a hospital in which to treat and care for those needing medical help.

This past year has seen real growth in our Central School at Boko. It brought us our first government inspection. In March our third graduation took place with a class of thirty-one, among them our first girl to complete primary school. We are very proud of her and hope she may be able to go on for further training.

We rejoice in the increase in our student body, especially among the girls. Instead of the forty girls of last year we have ninety-four this year who have come into the girl's compound. Many of them have walked two or three days to come to us. This sudden increase has forced us to build two new dormitories for girls and four new classrooms, all temporary grass buildings, put up entirely by the school boys.

In spite of inadequate teaching staff and lack of trained leaders, we look forward to greater things as we teach the young people of Congo the way of Christ.

In October the mission builder moved to Boko. First among our new tasks at Boko was meeting Government requirements which dictated that we must transform 200 acres of vine tangled forest into virtually a fruit tree orchard. That 8000 small trees must be obtained, prepared in a nursery and the forest cut out to receive them. This forest is transversed by four valleys with an accumulated vertical drop and rise of 2400 meters in its 2000 meter length. A time limit of July was set on this phase of the work. By July 9000 trees had been planted in a nursery prepared for them. Extreme measures had been taken to protect these trees from the long dry season. A solid sun shade six feet off the ground

was constructed to cover the more than 8000 square meters of the nursery and it is being continually watered through these long months. More than 200 kilometers of paths have been cleared through the forest. These paths must continually be kept open until the wet season presents the correct time to replant the trees. During the six months period it took to complete this difficult task the men many times refused to do the work and then re-entered it only because of a compelling warmth of love and understanding which is emanating from the new mission station. They do not understand it but they cannot help but be continually motivated by it. Bill Robbins has shared equally in this work.

The building program at Boko has steadily and swiftly moved forward. Eight new buildings have been completed and are in service. The new hospital project is now well under construction.

ONWARD AND UPWARD WITH KIKONGO IN 1955

AT THE HOSPITAL *with* AGNES ANDERSON

AT our hospital this past year we have had patients from every walk of Congo life; from big chiefs well clothed with their heavy red coats and blankets to pathetic little kiddies who have never had anything to wear but their birthday clothes. We had difficulty finding place for one important chief who came with six of his sixteen wives and numerous attendants. In talking with him about his spiritual condition he said : "I cannot become a Christian because I have sixteen wives, the chief's hat and bracelet" (the latter two connected with fetish worship) "but I am interested and want you to pray for me."

We are deeply indebted to Dr. Osterholm who has visited us three times during the year and performed 185 operations. Some of the cases cause a great deal of excitement, as with the woman who had a large abdominal tumor. The specimen was in a basin on the hospital veranda. People would look at the tumor and exclaim in loud tones; then go to the ward to peek at the woman.

"What a mystery! What kind of a person was she? What witch had caused that thing to grow in her body?"

The outstanding event of the year is the completion and occupation of our women's ward which at present is being used as a maternity ward and delivery room. The maternity department is a busy place. We had 290 cases last year and 186 so far this year.

Someone has said: "They're cheaper by the dozen," so we are trying it out with orphans. We have five babies who are bottle fed, while the others manage to drink from a cup.

We try to reach all of our patients with the gospel message. There have been many decisions for Christ, especially through the efforts of the Bible Institute students who do personal work among the hospital people.

We have helped some; others have been cured; but many have suffered and died because we had no doctor on whom to call. One woman who had been in labor for two days arrived by canoe in the night after a fifteen mile trip. The baby was already dead and the mother in very serious condition. She was beyond the care that a nurse could give her so Smithy drove her to the nearest government hospital 18 miles away, but it was too late to save her life.

We are praying the Lord of the harvest that more doctors and nurses may be sent forth. Surely there must be those who will answer the call.

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL *with* C. E. SMITH

Fish ponds and special hybrid corn from the Rockefeller Foundation are among the special projects of the year. The chicken project of the past year was doing very well and many settings of eggs were distributed among the Africans before a virus disease suddenly wiped out the entire flock, with the exception of one hen, within a period of two weeks.

The agriculturalist's time this past year has been spent primarily in the development of a new kind of "plant." Preparation for its growth are made by digging trenches about 60 cm. deep and packing them with rock, sand and cement. These plants have had a hardy growth and three of them have reached their full growth during the year; they are called "School Administration Building," "Women's Ward," "Home for Head Teacher."

VISITING THE CHURCHES *with* L. A. BROWN

What had been the weaker churches of our field, on the border of the Bayaka-Bambala tribes, now by far show the most promise. Interest and giving have grown. A surprising number who had been under discipline as polygamists have been straightening up their marital affairs and a goodly number are back in fellowship in the church. In all the fields one meets a constant plea for teachers which we do not have. Thruout the field there is a deeper hunger than we had formerly seen evident.

The new work at Buku and vicinity, among the Bahumbu people, seems to be one of the brightest spots in our Kikongo field. Giving is very good and about a dozen villages are begging for teachers.

IN THE SCHOOLS *with* MARGOT HAKES *and* VIOLA SMITH

Two outstanding blessings of the past year have been the arrival of Margot Hakes who has already passed two language examinations and is taking over a good share of the work, and the return from EPI of Paul Kiswamu, now the enthusiastic teacher of the seventh year which has been added this year.

The station schools have approximately 500 pupils distributed among the nine classes of boys and girls in elementary school, five classes of girls in Domestic Science school, three night school classes for adults, a kindergarten and a day Nursery ... A group of boys who have come from our new work at Buku, is a daily inspiration. Their eagerness to learn as they prepare themselves for baptism is proving to be contagious; they can be found reading their newly acquired Bibles at every opportunity.

We are especially fortunate in having the personal work of the teachers supplemented by the Bible Institute students who conduct enquirer's classes and classes in Christian Knowledge each Thursday evening. We are grateful to God for the opportunity our schools afford for reaching Congo's boys and girls for Christ.

E. P. I. REPORTS

by Harry Brown

EPI is still in the pioneering era from the standpoint of courses offered and physical equipment available, but is fast moving to the end of such a period and before too long ought to have all its major courses established and the buildings needed for them erected. That must not mean that we settle into a comfortable routine forgetting that we are working with young men and women with whom we have an opportunity during four years to help mold their Christian character, deepen their faith and fit them for long years of useful service to the mission which sent them here.

The past year has not been an easy one. Five changes of staff made the working out of the timetable a complicated task, each change requiring a revision of the entire schedule of classes. The Ericksons, because of illness, had to leave in May of last year and the remaining staff added hours to their load already being carried until the Browns arrived in August.

The Halls left for furlough at the end of the school year last March after extending their term. Without Elmer Hall's contribution to EPI through the years the physical equipment of the school would never have reached its present level. .... We rejoiced to welcome the Uhlingers to our staff and besides contributing their full share to the instruction given in the various schools, Mr. Uhlinger's work in building has already begun to make itself noticed especially in the new ABFMS residence which is being pushed to completion ..... We added Miss Doris Wiseman to our staff with mixed feelings — welcome without measure for herself but with deep sympathy for those at Vanga who had to do without her help. Her coming did mean that the fourth year secondary class could be created and twenty-two students were accepted for it, most of it from our secondary school at Banza Manteke.

We all rejoiced when a young woman student, Yikulwadio, of Banza Manteke won her four-year monitor's diploma in fair competition with the thirty-one men in her class. Her standing

was seventh when she graduated. We hope she may be the forerunner of a good many accredited women teachers.

In addition to our regular teacher's and pastor's schools, it was possible, two years ago, to create an E.A.P. (*two-year* teacher training class) composed of the wives of students and teachers. These completed their work at the end of the school year in March 1955 and it was possible to grant diplomas to all twenty-four women.

The first graduates of the *école artisanale* received their diplomas this year. We have been pleased with the boys who took the course and their work on the building projects has made it possible, with the help of other students, to put up our buildings within the appropriations given for them.

The warning brought to us at the time of the trustees meetings that the government might not subsidize the upkeep of married students led the trustees to decide that we could *not*, on that account, refuse to accept any students who might be married. Indeed, the older, married men are the ones who have given to E.P.I. a stablility and maturity of outlook which have been most valuable. And the opportunity thus to train Christian *families* instead of just young boys is an invaluable one. It was decided that we must raise the tuition paid by the missions to compensate for the loss in subsidies which keeping them would involve.

To the visitor, E.P.I. seems to be an incomprehensible maze of school timetables and classes going on in every subject and for everybody. We do not forget that this is a Christian school and that if we cannot send our students back to their stations with a stronger faith, a greater zeal and a more informed mind concerning the Church of Christ in Congo, we shall have failed in our responsibility to the Lord who called us to this ministry. And so the classroom affords an opportunity to give time and study to those things which can stimulate Christian faith and loyalty to Christ.

There are also the activities outside the classroom. We attempt to meet the various needs of the students themselves and of others in the surrounding district. Every Sunday except Communion Sunday, evangelistic teams go into the neighboring villages. For those not out preaching, on one Sunday afternoon we

have classes meet with a member of the staff where discussion may be had on topics of spiritual interest and value. On other Sunday afternoons there are student village meetings and on another a class will be responsible for a general church service for all.

With all the vicissitudes and problems that confront us we trust that we may be able to maintain our school as a center of Christian education and preparation where young people may find the inspiration and help which will send them back to their missions to take a worthy part in these times of change and adaptation to a new order.

I. M. E. REPORT — 1955

GLEN W. TUTTLE

THE Lord has again blessed us abundantly in giving us another busy and we trust fruitful year of preaching, teaching and healing. Numerous changes have occurred in our missionary staff which now comprises 2 doctors, 4 nurses, 1 laboratory technician and a hospital administrator.

We are very grateful to the S.M.F. for offering to send us in November Rev. and Mrs. Alden to serve half time as hospital chaplain. It is our hope and prayer that they will be permitted to stay long enough to properly organize the religious aspects of our work and demonstrate to a well educated and ambitious African pastor how the work can be effectively and fruitfully done. We are very much in need of a proper sanctuary in which to have our worship services and are glad to report that a chapel building fund has been started.

Last year's student body was composed of 70 in the School of Nursing and 18 in the School for Midwife-aides. Graduation exercises were held in March at which time 8 nurses and 11 midwife-aides received their diplomas, the former course being 5 years and the latter 2 years. Besides the many nursing courses which they must follow, personal evangelism is emphasized in our courses in religion and we are privileged to listen to very interesting case reports as the students tell of patients who have decided to accept

Christ as Savior or to return to church fellowship.

The activities of the hospital have continued to increase during the past year. The operations performed during 1954 numbered 1250 with only one surgical death and since November 1st over 1500 operations have been done. In 20 months 500 post polio cases were rehabilitated, some of them coming many hundreds of miles. Forty cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are now under treatment, some of them receiving regularly pneumothoraces and pneumoperitoneums. Several thoracoplasties have also been done with very encouraging results.

Before Mr. Edwards left us at the end of January for furlough he had erected over 90 buildings giving us a total of 108 small and large ones now in use. Our present building program has been reduced to a minimum except for an extension to our orthopedic center. With the kind and generous help of the Belgian Congo government we are now able to extend this unit to accommodate 95 patients. A local contractor has been engaged to do this job.

After a rainy season with inadequate rainfall our well failed to furnish our pump with sufficient water to permit it to function. Consequently, for the past 1½ years we have been pumping dirty water from a nearby stream. Fortunately we found a large spring 800 yards from our pump which will give us more water than we need, even at the end of the dry season. As soon as it is possible we shall install a 3 inch pipe from the spring to our pump which will carry 2,000 gallons an hour. Since less than half of this will be pumped up the hill for distribution through our water system, a large quantity will be available in the valley for drinking, bathing, and the washing of clothes, thus eliminating the possibility of our personnel and student body becoming infected with bilharzia by using the water from the stream.

May the Lord give us divine wisdom and guidance in the further development of I.M.E. that it may truly serve His purpose in the training of a genuinely Christian medical personnel.

LINES FROM LEO

Lee Weaver

NEW houses going up, roads being paved, electric lines being stretched, big new gyrobuses, more and more cars, more and more people — all this and more is the picture of Leopoldville today. With the distraction of all these outside activities, we sometimes are inclined to lose sight of our main objective — evangelism — even here on the mission field. In spite of constant press of other work, however, our evangelistic work has gone forward on several fronts this year. We have begun Sunday afternoon services in the Catholic-operated State tuberculosis sanitarium here in Léo. We and the Salvation Army alternate Sundays in bringing to the patients their only Protestant witness. Each Sunday afternoon we also hold services at two suburban posts — Binza and Kinsuka. Here, in spite of no adequate buildings for services, we have found the people eager and responsive, and in many cases even more faithful in bringing their offerings than our "city" folks ! As a result of contacts at these services, some of the mothers walk the several kilometres to bring their babies to Baby Clinic at our Leo dispensary.

Since Phyllis Benner's return from furlough in April, Arley Brown is now able to travel to Ngombe, our furthest out-station for services twice a month. We feel that the extra time will bring new zeal and encouragement to the little church there.

Our main efforts are concentrated in the church here at Leopoldville. During the past year we have had several highlights—the Matondo in October with Mompoko Daniel of Tondo from the E.P.I. pastor's course; a series of nightly pre-Christmas services, using pageant flannel-graph, and other visual aids in bringing the true meaning of Christmas, special pageants and services at Easter. In all these special programs the interest was good and attendance always increasing. In our regular services we seem to be about "holding our own"—the church is nearly always full for the Sunday morning services. But it seems at times that even here in Africa we are afflicted with that same disease of complacency and indifference that plagues so many of our churches at home. In many cases the outward appearance of the church members is accept-

able, but often fetishes, hidden but present, and their modern equivalents such as St. Christopher medals, indicate that real, trusting loyalty to Christ is often not present. The people in Leo are in great need of prayer, and of a deeper commitment to Christ which will help them resist the many temptations which civilization has brought to their land, as well as the old pagan holds.

Our educational program is growing, in spite of the opening of the first government schools in Leo last October. We transferred about 100 children to them, but still find we have more children than we can really adequately house or handle. The school responsibilities have been divided now, between Miss Benner and Arley Brown. We are hoping to get some new buildings from the government in the not-too-distant future, which, while increasing our load, will help us to give more and better teaching to the eager boys and girls in our school.

Graduation day last March found 15 beautifully scrubbed, white-clad boys and 1 girl, proud as peacocks to be graduating from the 6th year. And we were proud, too, when we thought of how many others had "fallen by the wayside" during those six years, and considered what a real achievement this day represented to them. Of the class, four entered the secondary school at Banza Manteke, the only girl graduate entered the *aides-accoucheuse* course at Kimpese, and two boys entered the school for apprentices at Kimpese. It is a great joy to see our young people getting more and more education, and our prayer is that some of them may hear God's call to His service. For it is this generation that must take greater responsibility for the real work and ongoing of the Church of Christ in Congo.

In May, King Baudouin of Belgium visited Leo. This was, of course, a cause for great excitement not only in our school, but all over the city. We had new red berets and red and blue kerchiefs to wear with our parade uniforms, and little Belgian and Congo flags to wave. What fun it was to go to parades and monuments and exhibitions — but not so much fun to work punishment cleaning up the mission, or standing for hours in the hot sun waiting for the King to come ! But good and bad, the King's visit will be long remembered.

Our Dispensary has had growing pains — so great that it

finally pushed one class clear out and took over another room to be used as an examining room. We have had no doctor's inspection since Dr. Freas left, but the confidence of the people remains high—due chiefly to our beloved and faithful *infirmière*, Mattie. Treatments fell slightly this year, largely because Mattie took a couple of months off to have a baby. We now have five helpers—one graduate *infirmière*, two aides-accoucheuse, and two helpers with primary school training.

Baby Clinic is held every Wednesday afternoon, and is both a joy and a job. Weighing around 200 babies of all sizes, shapes, and dispositions, as well as trying to look them over for any obvious diseases, takes every minute of the two hours allotted. But the work is worth it when we get a smile of welcome from some of the babies, or a grateful, shy smile from the mothers. And also when we are able to tell of God's love and protection to some of the mothers whose babies wear *nkisi*, or fetish charms.

The Leo Christian center is gradually getting underway. Since its beginning in February the Women's Sewing Class has grown to an enrollment of 94, with an average attendance of 40-50. Ruth Brown and Lee Weaver are kept very busy giving out quilt blocks, measuring and cutting material, and giving instructions for knitting or sewing. Some of our African women are now being taught to be teachers, since the class has grown too large for us to handle alone.

Nobody but Annis Ford could supply the instruments and the enthusiasm to start an instrumental group, but it is well on the way to serious harmony now. The choir has been reorganized and re-inspired and the organ renovated, so that we are now making beautiful music here in Leo.

This is of necessity only a meagre sketch of our activities this year in Leo. Who can tell the joys and sorrows, encouragements and disappointments, hopes and disillusionments that this brief report represents? But who can tell, too, the people who have been touched by God's spirit because of some of our small, day-by-day efforts to bring Christ to them. Remembering that God is able to use us, even when we feel inadequate, we look forward to even greater advances for Him in this next year.

MARCHING ON AT MOANZA

WE are profoundly grateful for God's blessing upon His work here during the past year. A steady increase of 11 % in the church offerings continues. Over 800 have been received by baptism since January. In the district, 3 church buildings of permanent construction begun last year have been completed, and 3 additional ones started. Work has been started in 3 new areas and 3 new pastors added to the staff already serving in the Moanza field. On the station an attractive baptismal pool has been built and used, greatly enhancing the reverence and beauty of this ordinance.

The number of permanent buildings erected on the station under the direction of Mr. Bubeck include a missionary residence, 3 five-room homes for Congolese key-workers and a dormitory for boys. Foundations are layed and walls will soon be going up on a lumber shed, hospital cubicles and the woman's Christian center. Funds are in hand for other buildings to be begun before the end of 1955.

In March 55 young men were graduated from our station school; 25 are continuing their studies at Moanza, 20 are teaching in village schools or engaged in special work. Twenty others including graduates of other years and four girls have been sent for higher training to schools at Kimpese, Vanga, Banza Manteke or Semendua. The people in this isolated area are increasingly anxious to send their children to school, but diffident about contributing food or money to help defray expenses.

The school fish-breeding project is succeeding and recently hands and nets hauled in exactly 153 fish when the girl's school was due for a feed.

We are grateful for the schools at Vanga and Kimpese which train our boys and girls and help us to raise the efficiency and standard of work in station and village schools. Miss Eldredge supervises the station schools and Mr. and Mrs. Bubeck those at regional centers and in the villages.

Last December all but two of our church districts were represented at an 8-day institute for the pastors' wives each accompanied by a lay woman delegate. Meeting three times daily the

women eagerly prepared themselves to conduct monthly meetings at our district church centers. Prayer, Bible study, memory of Scripture and songs, lessons in child care and hygiene with classes in sewing provided hours rich in fellowship with one another and the missionary teachers. The women often spoke of their joy in Christ and of His help in times of special need and trial.

The World Day of Prayer in February was observed throughout our field. It so happened that on our station it was market day and it was also baby clinic day at the hospital. The women are so happy to have this meeting which joins them in spiritual fellowship with women all over the world.

The story of the medical work during the past year is one of many changes in missionary personnel. Mrs. Bubeck valiantly directed the work for many months until September when, Dr. and Mrs. Walker arrived to be joyfully welcomed by all, and as a real answer to prayer. Their furlough time came around in March, but during those months many lives were saved and much done to build up the medical work. Dorothy Wiseman is now in charge of the hospital work and district baby clinic. Dr. Osterholm made a visit in May and during 9 busy days performed 69 operations. The hospital facilities were taxed to the limit and many patients slept outside under the mango trees. Happily this was during the dry season. Dr. Osterholm will make his next visit in September and during rainy season. We anticipate more housing problems for one of the mud wards recently blew down, but eventually the new cubicles being built by Mr. Bubeck will relieve conditions considerably.

Our greatest medical problem this year has been the "*mbwaki*" or red babies afflicted with anemia. As this report is being prepared over 30 babies are receiving liver injections, tonics and vitamines. The diet at Moanza is obviously inadequate and our crying need is for some kind of highly proteinized food to save babies and little children. Among our 400 or more babies in our clinics, hardly a dozen can be found with normal blood pictures.

May these lines help you to picture something of the many-sided ministry for the Lord being carried on at Moanza, our joys and problems, our hopes and aims, as a great host is marching on toward a fuller life in Christ.

REPORT FROM SONA BATA

Medical and Educational

THIS past year there have been many changes in the medical staff at Sona Bata. Dr. Freas went home in September, the day after our new nurse, Esther Greenmun, arrived. The following weeks were pretty hectic as the new green missionary tried to learn all she could of the business end from Mrs. Freas before she left to join her husband in the States. Dr. Sprague left for furlough early in April, leaving Esther as the only medical missionary. We continued to cherish the hope that there would be a replacement for her, but until that time it seemed wisest to close two of our five rural dispensaries. The pleas of the people as they begged us to leave the dispensaries tore our hearts and they would not be satisfied until we promised to open them at the earliest possible moment. The leper colony has been closed, many of the patients sent back to their villages and others sent to another colony. Maternity continues to be our busiest department with twelve babies arriving in two days. Our total number of deliveries for last year was 900. The fine staff we have has surely been a blessing and without their help and support it would be impossible to carry on. We continue to pray for a doctor, but until such a time as one arrives, we will do our best to faithfully serve the people in our area as they come seeking help.

What a challenge is ours as 1800 school boys and girls come to us for learning. Three hundred and eighty are with us in boarding school so we have an even greater opportunity to teach them to love and to live for our Saviour. More than two hundred of these are girls. We are so thankful to have three qualified women teachers to teach them the arts of Christian homemaking.

In April, Vendla Anderson went to the States for her furlough, and Eva Shepard came to work in the school during her absence. Madelyn Albrecht continues her fine work with primary schools and girls' school. As we took over Vendla's many, many responsibilities, we marveled anew at her ability to accomplish so many things so well.

VANGA BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

3161 baptisms in 1954, 1735 in the first eight months of 1955.

A church membership of over 27,000.

Annual church giving 3,500,000 francs—70,000 dollars.

Large permanent church buildings under construction or completed in seventeen of the twenty-nine church centers.

675 African workers—pastors, teachers, and nurses.

16,132 pupils in primary schools in 1954, and an increase in enrollment in 1955.

Ten new classrooms for the primary school.

A women's center building for work with women and girls, and for use as a Christian social center.

An increase in the number of patients coming to the hospital, and consequently added opportunities for a Christian witness to many who are not reached through churches and schools.

A new X-Ray unit for the hospital.

An active Alumni Association which takes a real interest in the school program and in the work in commercial centers.

LIABILITIES

Lack of Missionary Staff.....

To begin and supervise Christian work in the many commercial centers springing up about us, to establish schools in these centers for the children of our Christians who are living there.

To adequately supervise and teach the many new converts.

To shepherd the thousands of new Christians and lead them into a fuller understanding of Christ's way for their lives.

To establish schools above the primary level for the hundreds of children finishing the sixth grade.

To hold training institutes for the Congolese leaders who are doing their best, but have not had adequate preparation for the heavy responsibilities which they must carry.

To conduct a literacy campaign and through the written word win others to Christ.

To translate portions of the Scriptures into at least three of the ten languages used in the Vanga area.

To establish rural dispensaries and baby clinics in the areas not yet served.

To prepare and carry out a Christian Home program for our Christians and inquirers.

To establish new mission stations where needed.

Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 4 : 1, 2.

MISSION SECRETARY

B. W. Armstrong

As we look over the past year, we have much for which to thank our God. The evangelistic zeal of our churches has not flagged, the schools are overcrowded, the medical services have been used to relieve suffering and pain and bring spiritual release from sin along with physical healing. New buildings have gone up and are available for use. We have a group of fine young missionaries in training in Belgium and in the States.

The love and concern of the home Board and the supporting churches have been expressed in the appointment of new missionaries, the meeting of almost all of our requests for financial help, and in undergirding prayer which manifests itself in our times of deepest need. We are told by the Congo Protestant Council that our mission is one of the few in Congo making significant increase in the active church membership.

We need to thank God for the way our training schools for African leaders—pastors, teachers, medical helpers—are growing. We know that some of the response for new missionaries is due to constant prayer. Let us not forget to pray for our African colleagues and for the schools where they are preparing for the work.

We are happy that Remy Malutama has completed his normal school work in Belgium. He earned not only his diploma but the respect of the whole faculty, of his fellow students, and of the top men in educational circles in Belgium. Remy will be a big help to the friends at Banza Manteke upon his return.

We need to thank God for the fine loyal service of so many of the Congolese Christians. Many of them are carrying responsibilities well beyond the level of their training. We can do more in leadership training among our church members, more in the matter of stewardship.

When the Colonial Ministry cancelled all school building projects by the Native Welfare Fund, our hopes of getting several schools were dashed. A serious matter is the lack of enough schools above the 6th grade to care for our youngsters coming out of grammar school. The refusal of the government for the

high school at Vanga was quite a blow. We may be able to do something on a union basis in the Kikwit area.

We have had to leave the Sona Bata hospital without a doctor and the results, while yet incomplete, help to hasten the day of reckoning in the Sona Bata field. The medical service there had been a real source of strength to the churches. Hostile movements, the break-up of village life, the advance of industrial establishments, the all too rapid spread of beer drinking, and our own lack of sufficient staff all give great concern in the Sona Bata field. The pastors are over age, the younger ones are not coming forward in sufficient numbers, the trained monitors do not stay on the job; and we ask the one evangelistic missionary to take on several large building projects. The Congolese proverb says that a little man may not be half a man; but neither is a big man two men. Roland Metzger may do all he can, but he is still only one person.

The fact that trained workers leave Christian work for better paying jobs is difficult to handle. Unless we can depend on the help of the trained Congolese, we shall never be able to meet the needs of the communities where we work. Government salaries are not the answer, as we have learned. The answer lies in the realm of the Spirit rather than in salaries, security, prestige, or status.

We need to prepare candidates for the next theological course at E.P.I. We must get our best men for this and not leave the church in the hands of inadequately trained men. We have great need for a youth program. This is one of the items in the Congo Advance Program. We tend to be weak in following up the movement of our church members from the villages to the commercial centers. The movements from the villages to the towns and cities goes on constantly. Leopoldville has now passed the 300,000 mark. We need to nurture the Christians who come there, and to seek the lost.

GWLADYS ATKINS

Gwladys Atkins, who had served Christ on three continents, said goodbye to this life on May 25, 1955 and began the one which is eternal. She had been a missionary in China and Africa and at the time of her death was copastor, with her husband, of the First Baptist Church, Clifford, N. Y.

Mrs. Atkins was born, Gwladys Ruth Aston, of Welsh parents, on June 15, 1890, at Moosic, Pa. Her formal schooling was at Moosic and Glendale, Pa. She had Bible training at the Nyack Training Institute and Baptist Institute for Christian Workers. She worked two years at the Bowery Mission, New York, then received nurse's training at the West Side Hospital, Scranton, Pa.

Commissioned by the W.A.B.F.M.S. in 1916, she sailed for South China the same year where she served for six years as superintendent of the Kityang Hospital and two years in charge of Evangelistic work.

After returning to America in 1922, she married Ernest Atkins in September, 1923. Together they were commissioned for service in the American Baptist Congo mission in 1925. They served in Congo until July of 1951.

Ernest Atkins, who continues as pastor at Clifford, writes of his wife: "The last minutes of her life, as the heart was failing, such peace and serenity replaced the look of a pain racked brow. I could visualize her joy at meeting her Lord."

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IN BELGIUM — new appointees studying French for one year:

Dr. and Mrs. Norman Abell
Miss Margaret Alsen
Rev. and Mrs. Robert Barnett
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Emmert
Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Forcinelli
Rev. and Mrs. Brainerd Frazer
Miss Joy Ingalls, R.N.
Miss Rhoda Nielsen, R.N.
Miss Elizabeth Spinney, R.N.
Rev. and Mrs. Clifford Stabell
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stuart

IN U.S. — completing preparations for service in Congo:

Rev. and Mrs. Orville Chapman
Rev. and Mrs. Don Deer
Rev. and Mrs. John Rumohr

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* *Precede name of each station with A.B.F.M.S., except Kimpese*
† *All air-mail addressed via Léopoldville instead of Matadi*
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